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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/814,038

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Philip Padilla Ruiz

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6291

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7590

10/17/2006

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EXAMINER

CARTER, WILLIAM JOSEPH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2875

DATE MAILED: 10/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/814,038	Applicant(s) RUIZ ET AL.	
	Examiner William J. Carter	Art Unit 2875	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 July 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 July 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-9 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Golding in view of Thelen (5,709,045).

With respect to claim 12, Golding teaches an apparatus for identifying a house (10) comprising: a plurality of translucent (column 6, lines 29-35) display panels (40 and 42), each of the display panels having a light source (48) therein and an identification symbol (46) thereon, the identification symbol illuminated by the light source, the translucent display panels further comprising a male interlocking connector portion (left side of items 40 and 42) and a female interlocking connector portion (right side of items 40 and 42), the interlocking connector portions in adjacent display panels of the plurality of translucent display panels configured for detachable interfitted mating engagement (Fig. 1), the male and female interlocking connector portions comprising power supply wiring (45) for supply of power to the light source within each of the display panels.

Golding does not explicitly teach electroluminescent lighting. Thelen, drawn to illuminated identification devices, teaches electroluminescent lighting for identification symbols (Abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to use the electroluminescent lighting of Thelen in the translucent

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display panels for identification symbols of Golding, in order to provide a continuously lighted identification address, which is highly visible at night (column 1, lines 49-50).

As for claim 2, Golding further shows an electrical power supply unit (14), the power supply unit configured to supply a desired voltage electrical power supply to the plurality of translucent display panels (column 6, lines 5-11).

As for claim 3, Golding further teaches a power adaptor (45), the power adaptor configured for interlocking engagement with one of the interlocking connector portions on one of the translucent display panels, the power adapter configured for transmitting electrical power from the electrical power supply to one of the interlocking connector portions (column 6, lines 40-42).

With respect to claims 4 and 5, Golding teaches all of the claimed elements, as disclosed above, except for the electrical power supply comprising a transformer that supplies power at approximately 9 volts. Thelen teaches an electrical power supply comprising a transformer (12) that supplies power at approximately 9 volts (column 2, lines 41-42). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to use the transformer of Thelen in the apparatus of Golding, in order to in order to provide a low voltage power supply capable of continuous illumination (column 1, lines 25-27).

As for claim 6, Golding further shows the display panels (40 and 42) further comprise one or more screw through apertures (44 and 47) defined by interior edge wall portions.

As for claim 7, Golding further shows the display panels comprise first and second sidewall portions (the vertical edges of items 40 and 42 closest to item 46), and wherein the interlocking connector portions are configured (left and right sides of items 40 and 42) as complementary receptacle grooves and protruding plugs (Fig. 1).

As for claim 8, Golding further teaches the receptacle grooves are provided in the first sidewall (right vertical edge of items 40 and 42 closest to item 46), and the plugs are provided protruding from the second sidewall (left vertical edge of items 40 and 42 closest to item 46).

As for claim 9, Golding further shows adjacent display panels are secured in interfitting mating engagement by complementary tongue and groove features in adjacent first and second sidewalls of adjacent display panels (Fig. 1).

As for claim 11, Golding further teaches an ambient light photo sensor (Fig. 4a) and a controller (31), the ambient light sensor adapted to sense low light conditions and to act, through the controller, to turn on the light sources in the plurality of display panels (column 5, line 66-column 6, line 3).

As for claims 13 and 14, Golding teaches identification symbols (46) that comprise letters and number (Fig. 1).

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Golding and Thelen as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Johnson et al. (6,439,731).

With respect to claim 10, Golding and Thelen teach all of the claimed elements, as disclosed above, as well as Golding teaches an emergency mode (column 4, lines 1-

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3). Golding and Thelen do not explicitly teach the display unit comprising multi-level light sources, the multi-level light source configured for operation in a normal, low intensity lighting mode, and a high intensity lighting mode. Johnson, drawn to illuminated displays, teaches a display unit comprising multi-level light sources, the multi-level light source configured for operation in a normal, low intensity lighting mode, and a high intensity lighting mode (column 6, lines 8-22). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to use the dimming circuit of Johnson in the display unit of Golding, in order to provide a less expensive way to adjust light intensity over infinite output levels (column 6, lines 8-22).

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Golding, Thelen, and Johnson as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of Edwards et al. (4,901,461).

With respect to claim 15, Golding, Thelen, and Johnson teach all of the claimed elements, as disclosed above, except an emergency display mode wherein the one or more display panels are powered in a flashing configuration during the emergency display mode. Edwards, also drawn to illuminated identification devices, teaches an emergency display mode wherein the one or more display panels are powered in a flashing configuration during the emergency display mode (Abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention to use the emergency display mode of Edwards in the display unit of Golding, in order to give a status signal to a person outside the home (Abstract).


Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William J. Carter whose telephone number is (571)272-0959. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra L. O'Shea can be reached on (571)272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


ALI ALAVI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

wjc
10/05/06